

March 4, 1966

Mr. Lawrence Lessing
FORTUNE Magazine
Time and Life Building
New York 10020

Dear Mr. Lessing:

I really appreciated your article "Into the Core of Life Itself" and am looking forward to the next two numbers. If I have any complaint at all, I would fault you only for the hero-emphasis that is inevitable in singling out any short list of names. But it should be re-stressed how many people laid the groundwork of recent progress.

I would guess that you are already familiar with some of my views on "genetic engineering". However, I am just writing a more detailed prospective. As I think there has been some misdirection of foresight, I offer you the dubious advantage of an early draft of an article that will appear soon in American Naturalist, as you may wish to know about (if not accede to) some of these arguments. But please check with me before wrapping quotes around any of the phrases, as some will certainly end up on the cutting room floor.

The worst that could happen, and it does, is that I be made to seem to advocate all of these developments—which I do no more than Huxley did in "Brave New World".

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics